Air connectivity to Port Blair

658. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor connectivity between the main Port Blair and the other Andaman Island is the hitch for active tourism of Andaman Island groups; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to open new connectivity other than Kolkata and Chennai for encouraging domestic and foreign tourism in Andaman Island?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Animal and bird menace around airports

659. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airports in the country continue to be haunted by stray animals and birds menace;

(b) whether two stray dogs at Nagpur Airport kept a Jet Airways plane in the air for about 20 minutes on August 27, 2003;

(c) the number of incidents of bird hits and stray animals intruding the airport flight zones during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to prevent any hazards involving stray-animals and birds on and around airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On August 26, 2003 at time 0822 IST, two dogs were observed crossing the runway at Nagpur airport. Jet Airways flight JAI-111 from Mumbai to Nagpur was then asked to carry out missed approach procedure and execute another ILS approach. Meanwhile dogs were chased out and the aircraft landed safely at 0845 IST.

(c) During the last three years, the number of bird hit incidents occurred is 143, 140 and 101 in 2001, 2002 and 2003 (Till October) respectively.

(d) Airfield Environment Management Committee have been set up at all the operational airports to identify sources of stray animals/ bird attraction at the airport and take appropriate action. The primitive slaughter houses are being replaced with modern abattoirs with all the elaborate facilities. Aircraft Act, 1934 has been amended to make disposal of garbage in the open within 10 Kms. of the airport as a cognizable offence. Besides, number of major steps such as grass cutting, bird shooting, wire meshing of hangars, fencing of airport periphery, regular joint inspection of the areas around the airport, deployment of watch & ward staff during aircraft operations etc. are taken to reduce animal/bird menace at airports.

Purchase of executive jets from Brazil

660. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase executive private jets named 'Legacy' from Brazil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for purchasing these aircrafts from Brazilian aircraft maker; and

(d) the estimated cost of each aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) Government has decided to purchase five 19-seater Executive Jets from M/s Embraer, Brazil for VIP communication duties of which four are for Indian Air Force and one for Border Security Force. The Brazilian aircraft was short-listed after technical evaluation alongwith other offers and the final selection was done on the basis of the lowest price.

New runway at Mangalore Airport

661. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to construct a new runway at the Bajpe Airport, Mangalore, to enable larger aircrafts to land and take off from the Airport; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time schedule for completion of the project?